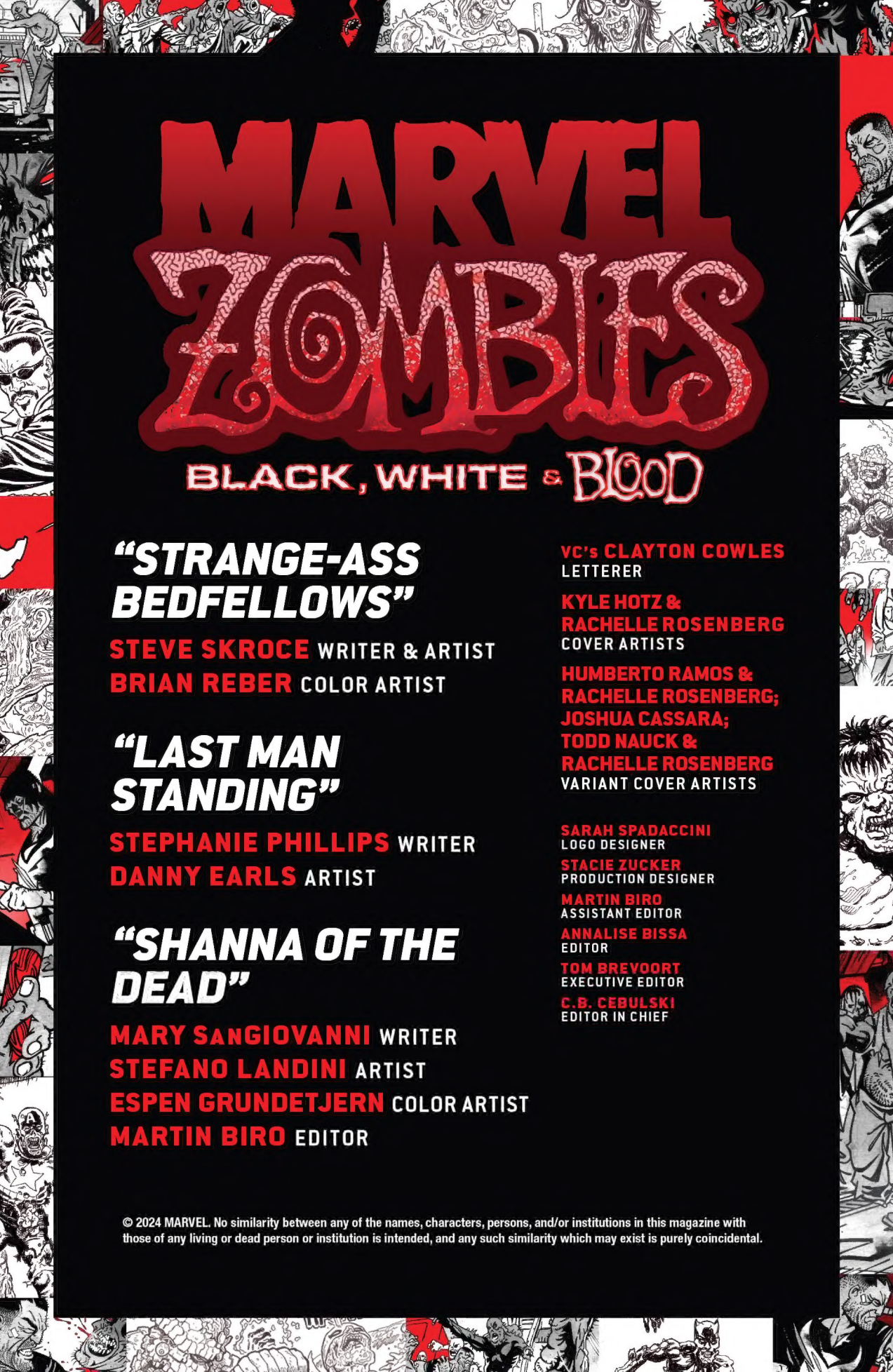
MARVEL
ZOMBIES
MARVEL
4
SKROCE
PHILLIPS
EARLS
SANGIOVANNI
LANDINI
PARENTAL ADVISORY!
NOT FOR KIDS!
BLACK, WHITE & BLOOD
PARENTAL ADVISORY



"STRANGE-ASS BEDFELLOWS"

STEVE SKROCE WRITER & ARTIST
BRIAN REBER COLOR ARTIST

"LAST MAN STANDING"

STEPHANIE PHILLIPS WRITER
DANNY EARLS ARTIST

"SHANNA OF THE DEAD"

MARY SANGIOVANNI WRITER
STEFANO LANDINI ARTIST
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THE ZOMBIE PLAGUE HAS TAKEN OVER THE WORLD AND EVERY SUPERHUMAN IN IT. THERE ISN'T A SINGLE SAFE PLACE LEFT ANYWHERE ON EARTH...EXCEPT ONE.
THE ROAD THERE IS PAVED WITH SUPER-GHOULS. SO NOW I GOTTA DEAL WITH ZOMBIE MR. FANTASTIC.
MORE LIKE MR. SO-SO.
BLADE in
"STRANGE-ASS BEDFELLOWS"
STEVE SKROCE WRITER & ARTIST
BRIAN REBER COLOR ARTIST
VC's CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER

I AIN'T BEIN' FAIR--HE'S NOT HIMSELF.

NONE OF THEM ARE OR WILL BE AGAIN. SO MAYBE I GOT A SHOT.

HUUNGHRLKKK--

RIGHT COMBO OF BITERS CAN TAKE DOWN ANYBODY. I AIN'T HEARD ABOUT ANY OTHER LIVIN' HEROES ANYWHERE. AIN'T NO WORK BEIN' DONE OUT THERE EXCEPT BY ME AND MY GUY.

COULD I BE THE LAST ONE FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT?

I RELEASE YOU, BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

BRRRP BRRRP

THUNK!

THUNK!

THUNK!

I WAS NEVER REALLY A PART OF THE SO-CALLED HERO COMMUNITY. THOSE GUYS WERE SELF-ELECTED INSPIRATIONAL FIGURES OR SOME CRAP.

SPKT!

SPKT!

SPKT!

ME? I'M AN *EXTERMINATOR.* ERADICATING THE FILTH THAT IS THE VAMPIRE INFECTION IS MY *PURPOSE*... IT WAS, ANYWAY.

SPAK!

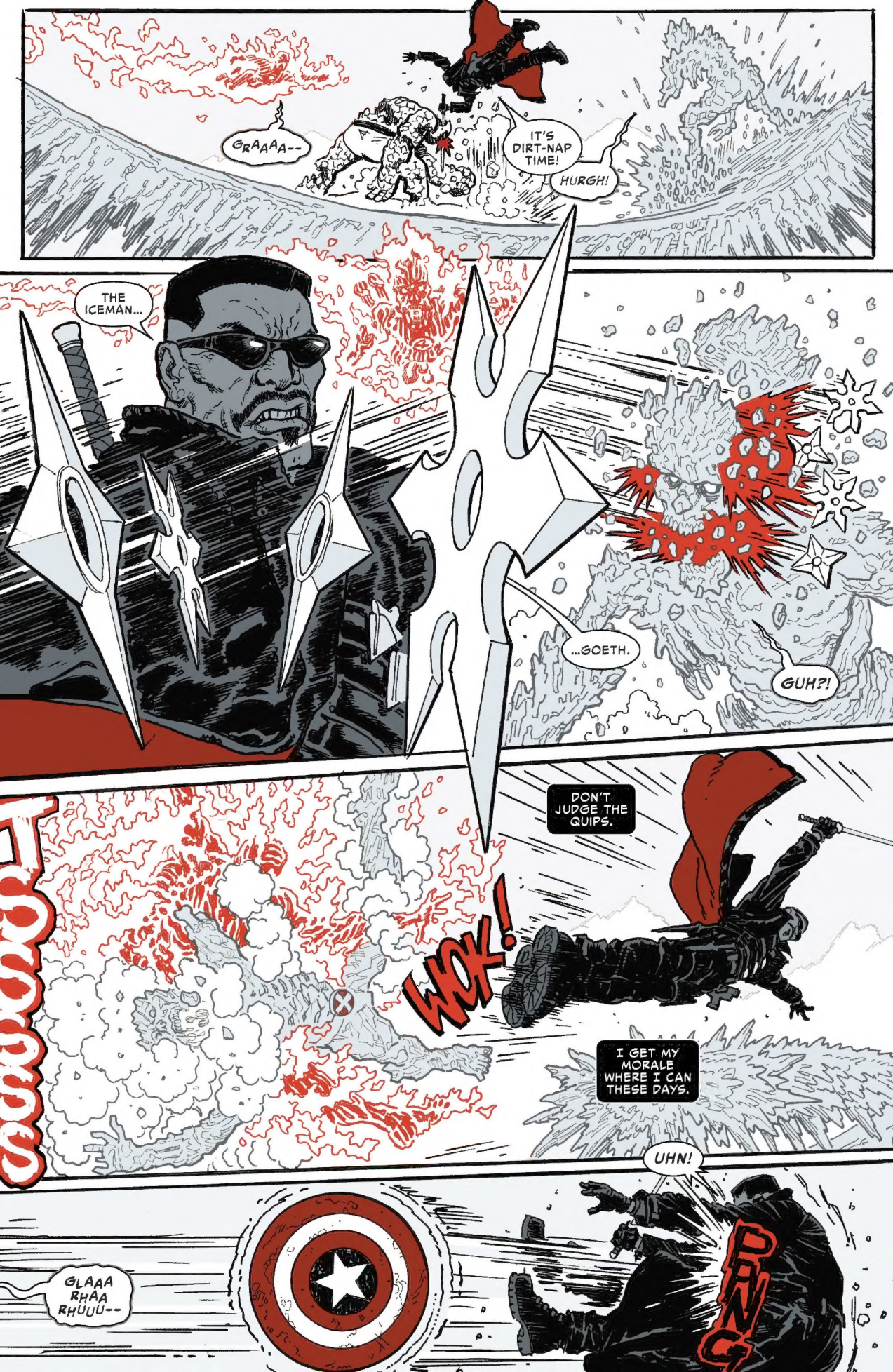
I MISS THOSE COLORFUL BLOW-HARDS NOW, THOUGH. IF I HEARD BEN GRIMM SAY THAT CORNY *"IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!"* BATTLE CRY AGAIN, I'D PROLLY WEEP.

GRAH-RAHRRR--

SPAK!

SPAK!

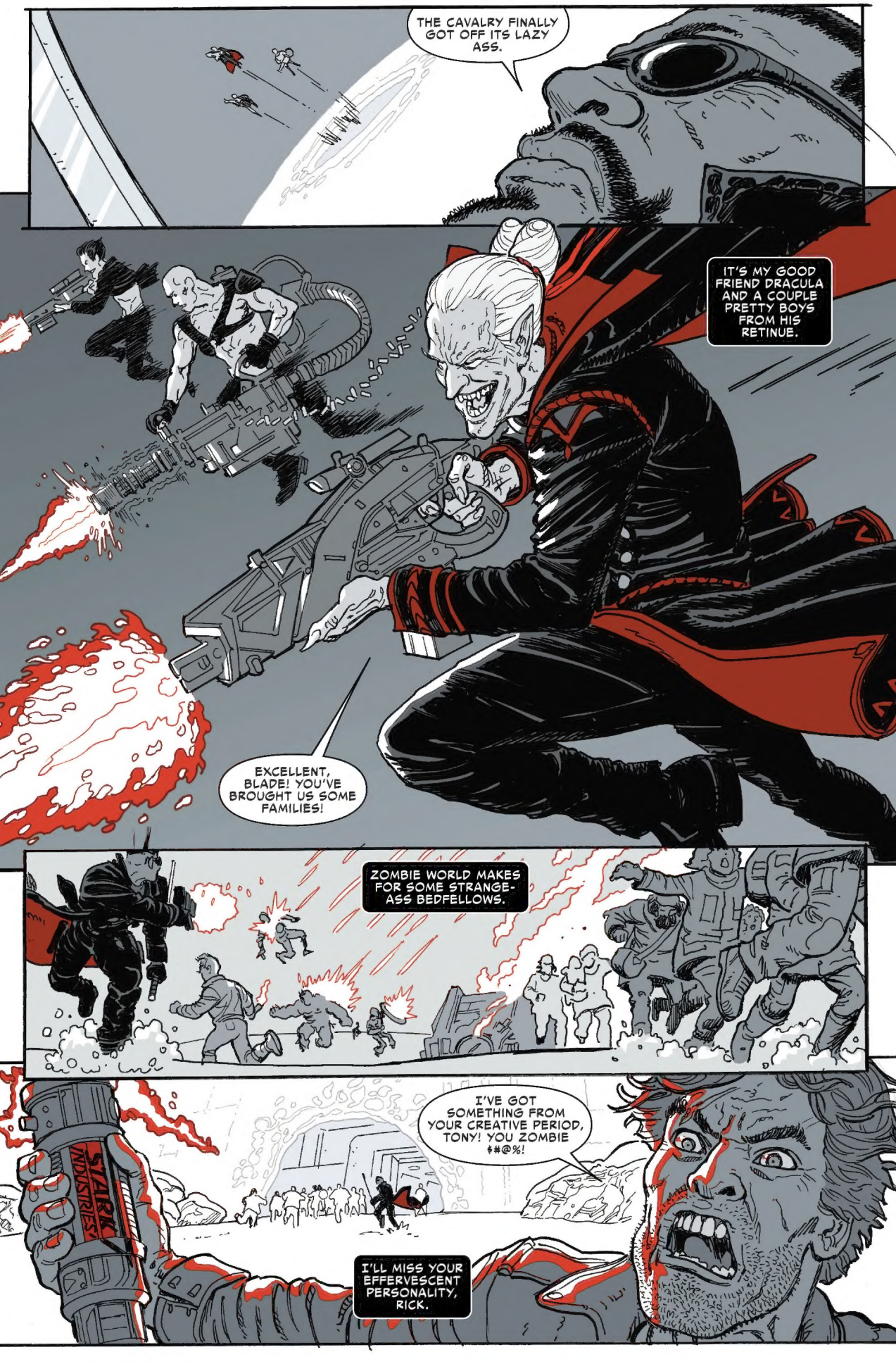
SPKT!


GRAAAA--
IT'S DIRT-NAP TIME!
HURGH!
THE ICEMAN...
...GOETH.
GUH?!
DON'T JUDGE THE QUIPS.
WOK!
I GET MY MORALE WHERE I CAN THESE DAYS.
UHN!
PNG
GLAAA RHAA RHUUU--

WELL, WELL. THE EARTH'S MIGHTIEST BRAIN MUNCHERS HAVE ASSEMBLED TO RUIN THE DAY. THEY STILL LOOK A BIT TOO SPRY FOR MY LIKING.
THEY ARE DRAWN HERE FOR ONE REASON: FRESH MEAT. IT'S A DWINDLING COMMODITY IN THE ZOM WORLD, AND THIS PLACE IS NUTHIN' BUT TOP-SHELF ZOMBIE NOM NOMS.
IT'S THE LAST SAFE PLACE WHERE HUMANITY CAN FLOURISH ONCE MORE.
GGLLEYAAAGH.
THEY CALL IT THE *SANCTUARY*, AND NOTHING CAN GET THROUGH ITS FORCE-FIELDS, NOT EVEN THESE SUPER-GUTS-GOBBLERS.
THE WHOLE PLACE IS SELF-SUFFICIENT EXCEPT FOR ONE THING...FOOD FOR ITS RULING CLASS.

RAT-AT-AT-AT-AT-AT-AT-
PANG!
PANG!
THAT'S WHERE ME AND MY CRAZY SIDEKICK COME IN. WE PROVIDE SEED FOR THE FOREVER-HUNGERING SOIL.
DIE, YOU SUPER-ZOMBIE ♦#@%S!
YOU RUINED MY LIFE!
RICK JONES HAS SEEN IT ALL. PROBABLY TOO MUCH. DEFINITELY TOO MUCH.
HE COULD IMPROVE HIS BEDSIDE MANNER WITH OUR PRECIOUS CARGO, BUT MAYBE THAT'S ASKIN' TOO MUCH. HE AIN'T WHAT HE USED TO BE, BUT WHO IS?
♦#@%!
HE'S MY FIRST REAL SIDEKICK, AND I'M ABOUT HIS SLOPPY NINETEENTHS, HERO-WISE.
C'MON, C'MON, WE AIN'T COME THIS FAR FOR NUTHIN'!

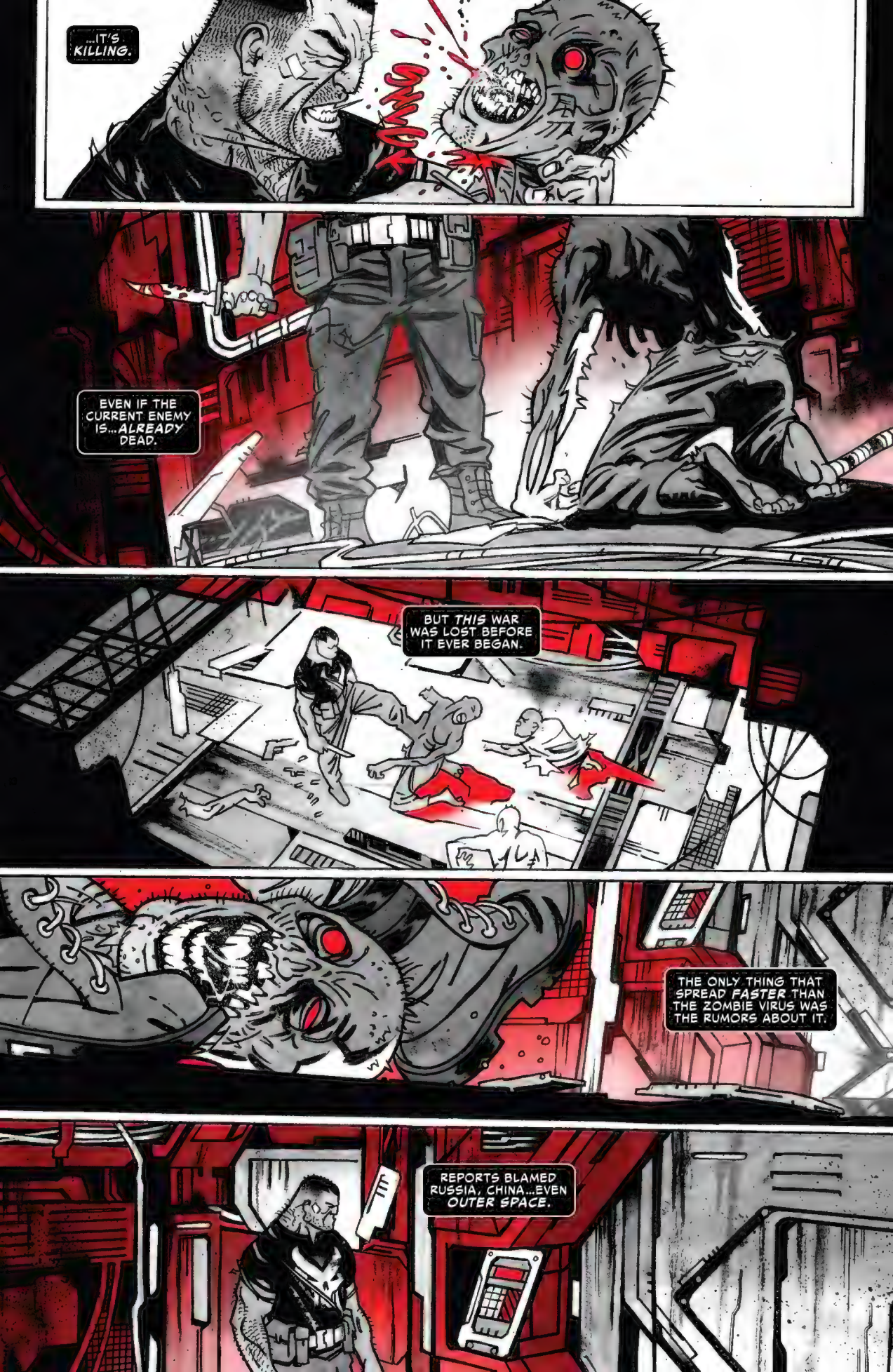
(GRAA LARRARR--)*
TZZZAK!
*TRANSLATED FROM ZOMBIE FOR "CLASSIC TONY QUIP."
ZZZZZZZ
#@%! LOSING CONTROL!
THIS RUN IS GOING SIDEWAYS...
IT'S THE END OF THE LINE.
GO! GO!
NOT GONNA ENJOY SEEIN' RICK GET EATEN ALIVE BY HIS OLD BUDDIES. THAT #@% AIN'T RIGHT.


THE CAVALRY FINALLY GOT OFF ITS LAZY ASS.
IT'S MY GOOD FRIEND DRACULA AND A COUPLE PRETTY BOYS FROM HIS RETINUE.
EXCELLENT, BLADE! YOU'VE BROUGHT US SOME FAMILIES!
ZOMBIE WORLD MAKES FOR SOME STRANGE-ASS BEDFELLOWS.
I'VE GOT SOMETHING FROM YOUR CREATIVE PERIOD, TONY! YOU ZOMBIE ♯#@%!
STARK INDUSTRIES
I'LL MISS YOUR EFFERVESCENT PERSONALITY, RICK.

HUMANITY'S LAST UTOPIAN REFUGE HAS A CATCH.
IT'S RUN AND CONTROLLED BY THE VAMPIRE NATION.
BOOM!
IT WAS A HERO'S DEATH, BLADE. YOUR FRIEND HONORED HIMSELF, SO DON'T LOOK SO SAD.
COME, JOIN IN THE REVELS. DON'T FORGET LIFE IS FOR THE LIVING...AND THE IMMORTAL.
THE VAMPS DO IT UP NICE HERE. IT'S A REAL BIG SLICE OF THE GONE WORLD.
WELCOME, WELCOME, EVERYONE!
KNOW THAT YOU ARE SAFE AND THAT YOU ARE HOME...
...THE FUTURE, ONCE AGAIN, BELONGS TO YOU, TO US ALL.
THEY GOT SMILING FACES AND COMFORTING WORDS.
THEY'LL PATCH YOU UP GOOD AND GET YOU NICE 'N' HEALTHY.
THEY GOT ALL THE LONG-LOST AMENITIES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS. YOU CAN MANAGE ALL THAT ZOMBIE-WORLD TRAUMA WITH A BUILT-IN BENZODIAZEPINE DISPENSER AND A NICE BUBBLE BATH.
THE PRICE?
ONLY YOUR IMMORTAL SOUL.

THEIR PROTECTION IS CONTINGENT UPON YOU BECOMING THEIR BLOOD COW FOR LIFE. HUMANITY IS BEING SAVED TO BECOME NOTHING MORE THAN PAMPERED SLAVES.
I HATE IT, AND I HELP ENABLE ALL OF IT. I JUST DON'T SEE ANY OTHER WAY.
SO I MUST SULLY MYSELF FOR THE GREATER GOOD. I MUST SURVIVE AND BE PATIENT.
DON'T EVER CHANGE, BLADE!
HAHAHA HA--
BECAUSE ONE DAY, THE ZOMBIE MENACE WILL BE EXTINGUISHED, AND THE ROSE OF HUMANKIND WILL BLOOM ONCE MORE. THEN...
THEN, I'M GOING TO KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF THESE BLOODSUCKIN', %$@#$!#@%$# VAMPIRES IN THIS RATHOLE.
CHEERS.
THE END.

WRITTEN BY STEPHANIE PHILLIPS • ART BY DANNY EARLS • LETTERING BY VC's CLAYTON COWLES


...IT'S KILLING.
SNICK
EVEN IF THE CURRENT ENEMY IS...ALREADY DEAD.
BUT THIS WAR WAS LOST BEFORE IT EVER BEGAN.
THE ONLY THING THAT SPREAD FASTER THAN THE ZOMBIE VIRUS WAS THE RUMORS ABOUT IT.
REPORTS BLAMED RUSSIA, CHINA...EVEN OUTER SPACE.

IN THE END, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO OR WHAT CAUSED IT...
HRSSSSS!
...BECAUSE NO ONE STOOD A CHANCE.
HRRRRGN!
&%#@.
DEET
DEET
COME ON, YOU PIECE OF #@&%...COME ON...
#%@.
HRRRRGN!
DEEEEET
KRAK
DEET
THERE WERE, OF COURSE, SOME WHO TRIED TO GIVE HUMANKIND A FIGHTING CHANCE...

...TALK OF A CURE OR A VACCINE...HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.
BUT IT WAS JUST THAT.
TALK.
ARGHN!
DEET
SCHLK
OR SO I THOUGHT.
HRN.
WELCOME...

...AUTHORIZATION CODE REQUIRED OR SELF-DEFENSE MEASURES WILL BE ACTI--
I'M HERE FOR DOCTOR STONE.
YOU'RE HUMAN.
SURE AM.
LOT OF GOOD THAT DOES...
...HUMAN IN A WORLD FULL OF MONSTERS.
AN IDENTITY CRISIS IS DEFINED AS A PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY AND CONFUSION IN WHICH A PERSON'S SENSE OF SELF BECOMES INSECURE.
IF THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO PUNISH, ARE YOU STILL THE PUNISHER, FRANK CASTLE?
YOU KNOW MY NAME. HOW--?

I'M AN ARTIFICIAL RE-CREATION OF DOCTOR MIRIAM STONE. I HAVE ALL OF HER MEMORIES AND ELEMENTS OF HER PERSONALITY, PLUS THE ABILITY TO SCAN THOUSANDS OF DATABASES' WORTH OF KNOWLEDGE FASTER THAN YOU CAN BLINK.
FRANK CASTLE, A.K.A. THE PUNISHER, IS A STREET-LEVEL VIGILANTE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF MANY CRIMINALS LINKED TO VIOLENT--
OKAY, I GET IT.
WHERE'S DOCTOR STONE... THE REAL ONE?
DOCTOR MIRIAM STONE DIED TWO YEARS AND TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS AGO.
THEN I CAME HERE FOR NOTHING?
YOU RECEIVED THE TRANSMISSION, DIDN'T YOU?
DOCTOR STONE MAY NO LONGER BE WITH US...
...BUT HER RESEARCH IS.
YOU'RE TELLING ME IT'S REAL?

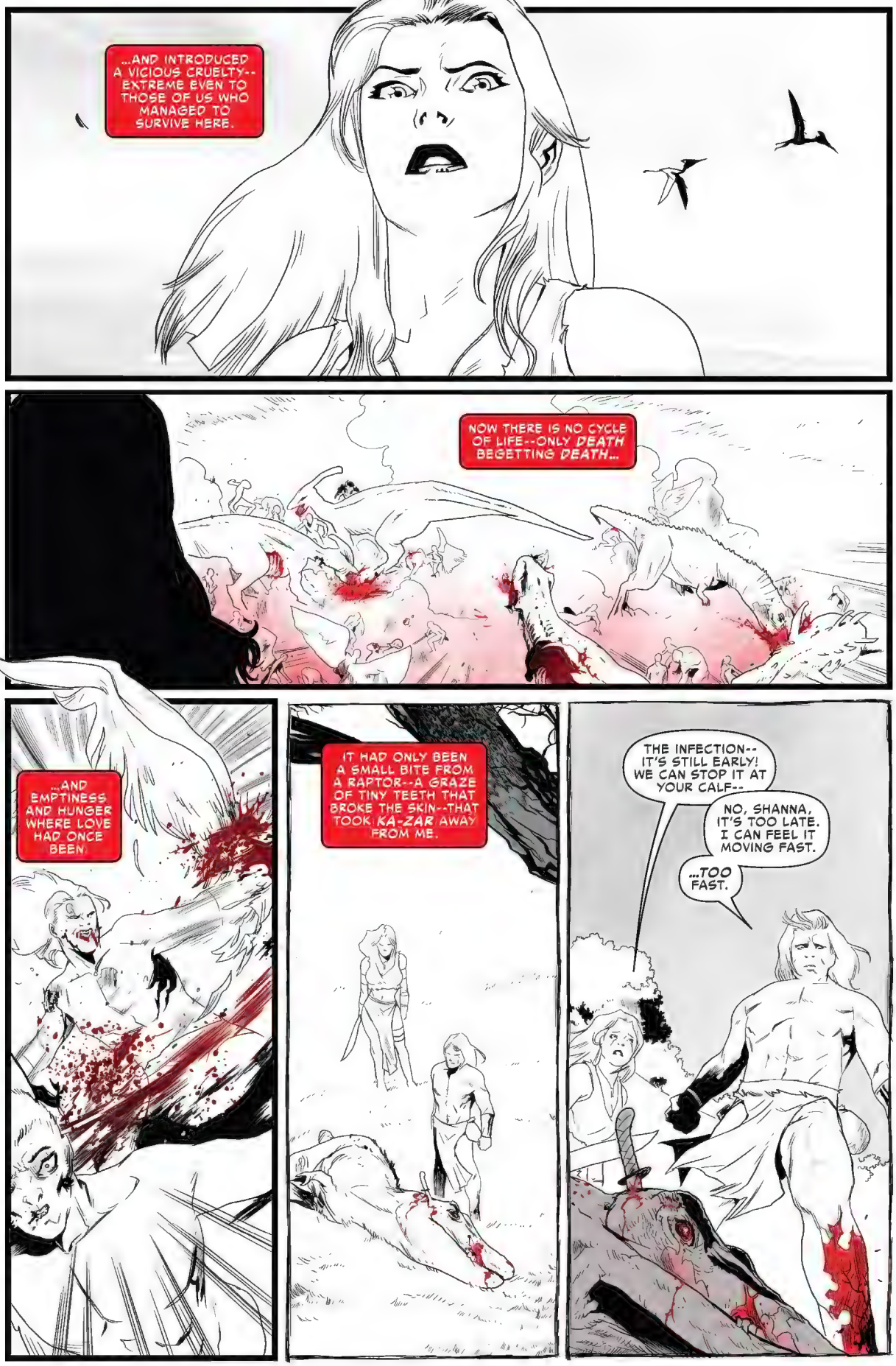
DOCTOR STONE'S MESSAGE SAID SHE FOUND A WAY TO FIX IT...TO GET RID OF THOSE MONSTERS FOR GOOD.
YES, DOCTOR STONE SUCCEEDED IN CREATING A VIRUS THAT COULD SPREAD THROUGH THE ENTIRE POPULATION, KILLING ALL OF THE UNDEAD...
...BUT SHE ALSO CREATED A CURE.
A CURE? YOU KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE TRIED THAT?
AND YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT IT'S JUST SITTING RIGHT HERE...IN THAT VIAL?
IT WAS TESTED ON A VERY SMALL SAMPLE SIZE BEFORE THE LAB WAS COMPROMISED, BUT THE TESTS WERE OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE.
I'LL PLAY ALONG FOR A MOMENT.
SO, ASSUMING THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING ISN'T COMPLETE AND UTTER @#%$--WHICH IT ABSOLUTELY IS-- THEN THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS...
...SPREAD A VIRUS CREATED SPECIFICALLY TO WIPE OUT THE DAMNED ZOMBIES, OR TAKE A CHANCE ON A CURE WITH NO MORE EVIDENCE THAN AN ARTIFICIAL RE-CREATION OF DOCTOR MIRIAM STONE TELLING ME IT'S GOOD.
I THINK I'LL KILL 'EM.
OF COURSE. THAT IS WHAT YOU WOULD DO, PUNISHER.

YES...IT IS. THAT'S WHY I SAID IT.
IF USING THIS VIRUS CAN PREVENT THE LOSS OF WHATEVER LIFE IS LEFT...THEN THAT'S THE ONLY CHOICE.
YOU WILL KILL THE ZOMBIES AND CONTINUE A POINTLESS MISSION.
AND WHAT DATABASE ARE YOU GETTING THAT FROM?
I DON'T NEED A DATABASE. IT IS SIMPLE LOGIC.
KILLING-- PUNISHING PEOPLE FOR THE GREATER GOOD-- USED TO BE WHAT DROVE YOU.
IN THIS NEW WORLD, DEATH HAS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MEANING, WHICH WOULD INSINUATE THAT, PERHAPS, YOU HAVE LOST YOURS.
IF YOU ANSWERED DOCTOR STONE'S MESSAGE, THEN YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO HELP.
DOCTOR STONE NEVER BELIEVED THAT HER PURPOSE WOULD BE FINDING A CURE FOR A ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE, BUT SHE WORKED TIRELESSLY, EVEN DYING FOR WHAT SHE BELIEVED IN.
SHE MADE A CHOICE...
...SO WHAT WILL YOU CHOOSE?

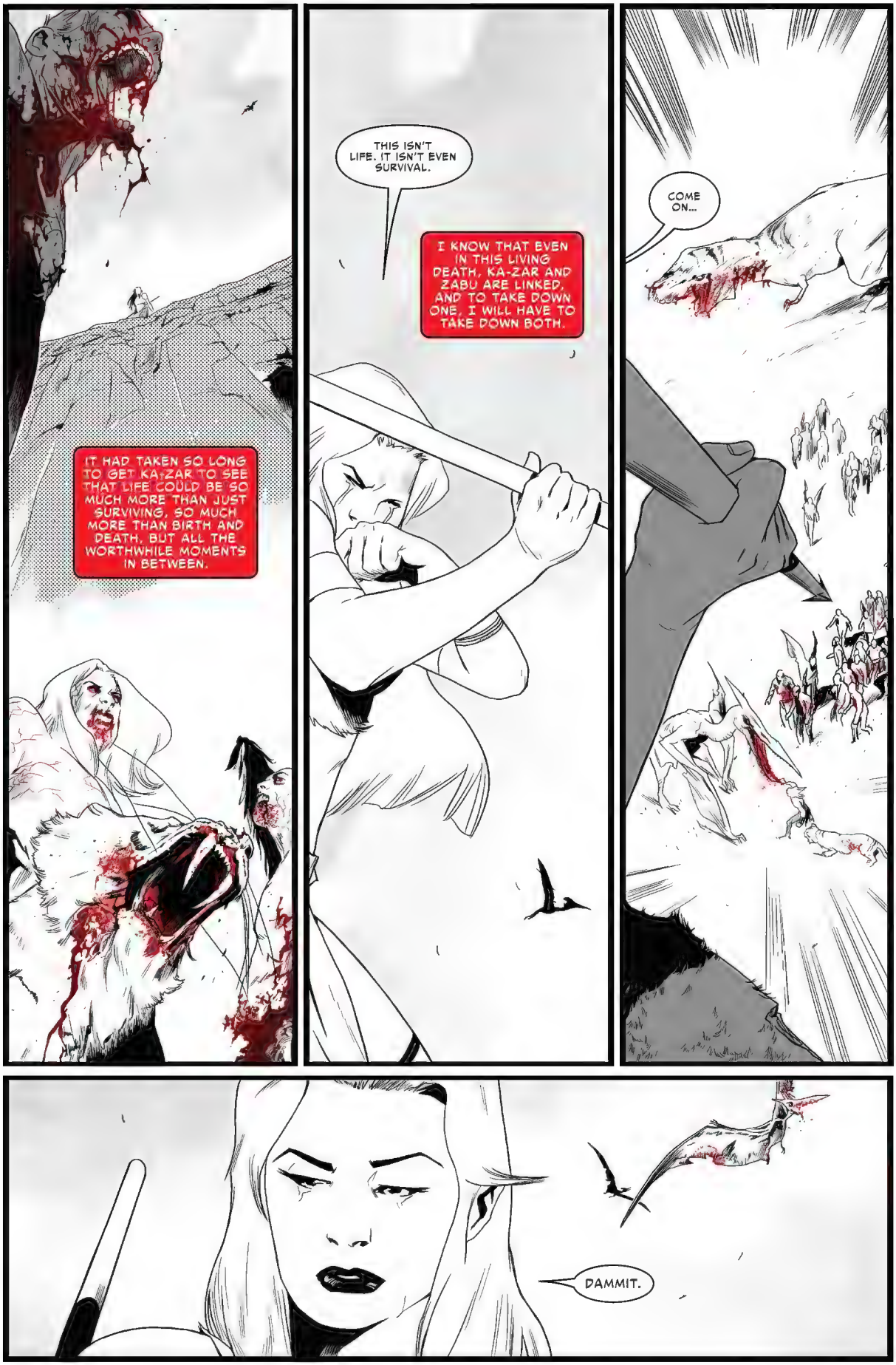
SHE REALLY THOUGHT IT WAS POSSIBLE...THAT THERE WERE STILL *PEOPLE* WHO COULD BE SAVED?
KRAAAAK
YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.
I WON'T MAKE IT.
DOCTOR STONE'S WORK NEEDS TO BE DISTRIBUTED--
I KNOW.
NO. YOU CAN'T.
IT'S THE FASTEST WAY. BESIDES, IT'S BETTER THAN CONTINUING A *POINTLESS* MISSION.
THIS WAR WAS LOST BEFORE IT EVER BEGAN...
HRRRRRGN!

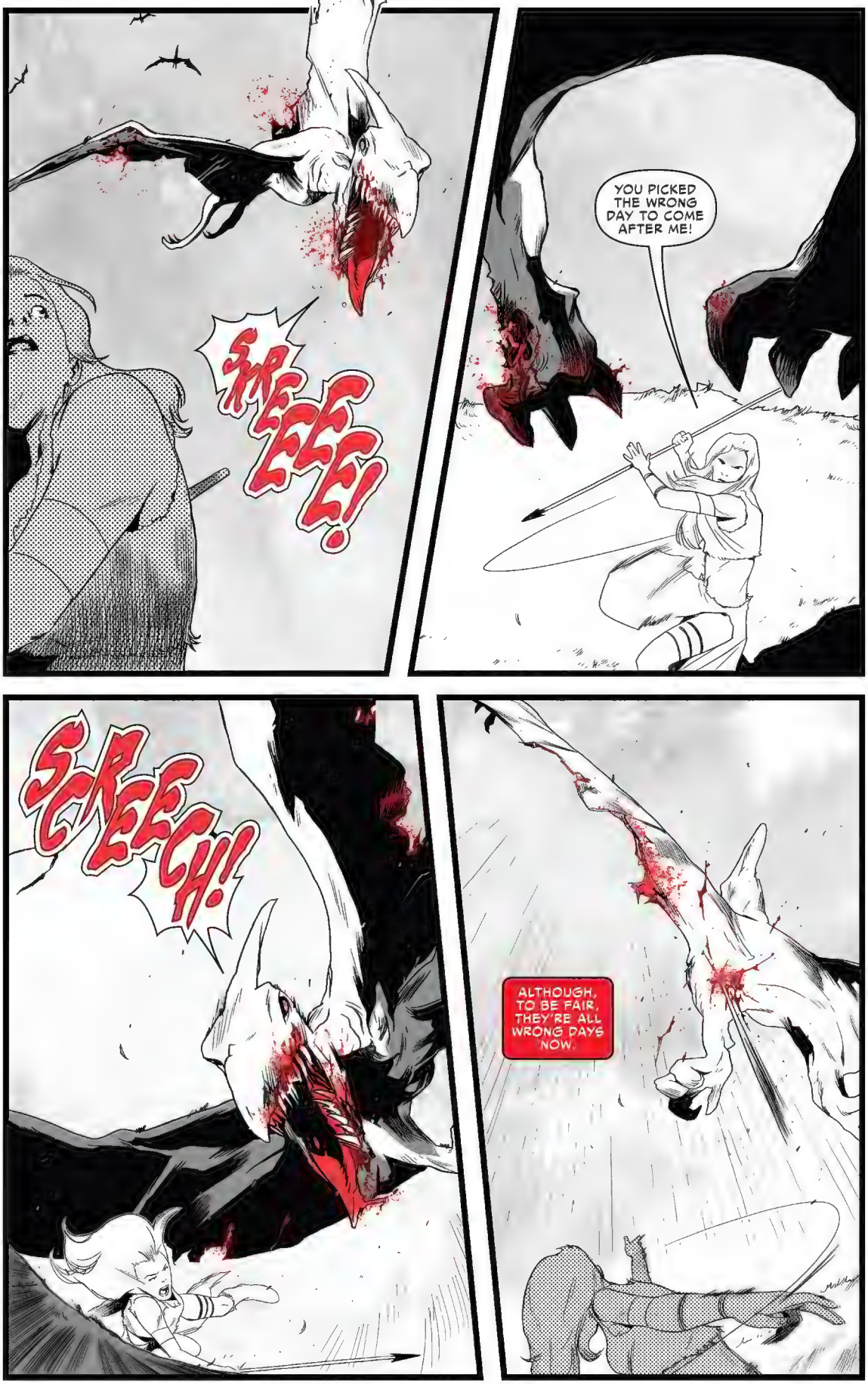
...BUT I AM A SOLDIER.
HRRRERAGH!
MAYBE I'M THE LAST CASUALTY IN THE LAST WAR.
OR MAYBE I'M THE SACRIFICE THAT FINALLY WINS IT.
GOODBYE, FRANK.
THE END.

"SHANNA OF THE DEAD"
MARY SANGIOVANNI WRITER
STEFANO LANDINI ARTIST
ESPEN GRUNDETJERN COLOR ARTIST
VC's CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER
MARTIN BIRO EDITOR
IT TOOK ONLY THREE MONTHS FOR THE ZOMBIE VIRUS THAT QUICKSILVER BROUGHT TO THE SAVAGE LAND TO SPREAD
ITS MINDLESS VIOLENCE AND CARNAGE INFESTED EVERY DARK JUNGLE CORNER, EVERY ISLAND, EVERY MIST-SHROUDED MOUNTAINTOP...


...AND INTRODUCED A VICIOUS CRUELTY--EXTREME EVEN TO THOSE OF US WHO MANAGED TO SURVIVE HERE.
NOW THERE IS NO CYCLE OF LIFE--ONLY *DEATH* BEGETTING *DEATH*...
...AND EMPTINESS AND HUNGER WHERE LOVE HAD ONCE BEEN.
IT HAD ONLY BEEN A SMALL BITE FROM A RAPTOR--A GRAZE OF TINY TEETH THAT BROKE THE SKIN--THAT TOOK *KA-ZAR* AWAY FROM ME.
THE INFECTION--IT'S STILL EARLY! WE CAN STOP IT AT YOUR CALF--
NO, SHANNA, IT'S TOO LATE. I CAN FEEL IT MOVING FAST.
...*TOO* FAST.

THE INFECTION SPREAD SWIFTLY.
GET OUT OF HERE! NOW! AND TAKE ZABU WITH YOU--TAKE CARE OF HIM!
I--I CAN'T LEAVE YOU! I WON'T!
YOU HAVE TO! GO, SHANNA!
SHANNA, OUR SON! YOU NEED... YOU NEED TO PROTECT MATTHEW NOW... YOU HAVE TO GO--
KEVIN, NO...
...BEFORE I...BEFORE I...
I JUST BARELY MADE IT BACK TO THE LAST REDOUBT, A MOUNTAINTOP FORTRESS PROTECTING THE FEW REMAINING UNINFECTED.
SIG! GET READY TO CLOSE THE GATE BEHIND ME!
WHERE'S KA-ZAR?
YOU SHOULD HAVE LET ME END IT, OLD FRIEND.
+GROWL+
BUT ZABU WOULDN'T FOLLOW ME. HE REMAINED LOYAL TO KA-ZAR TO THE LAST...
...AND EVEN AFTER.

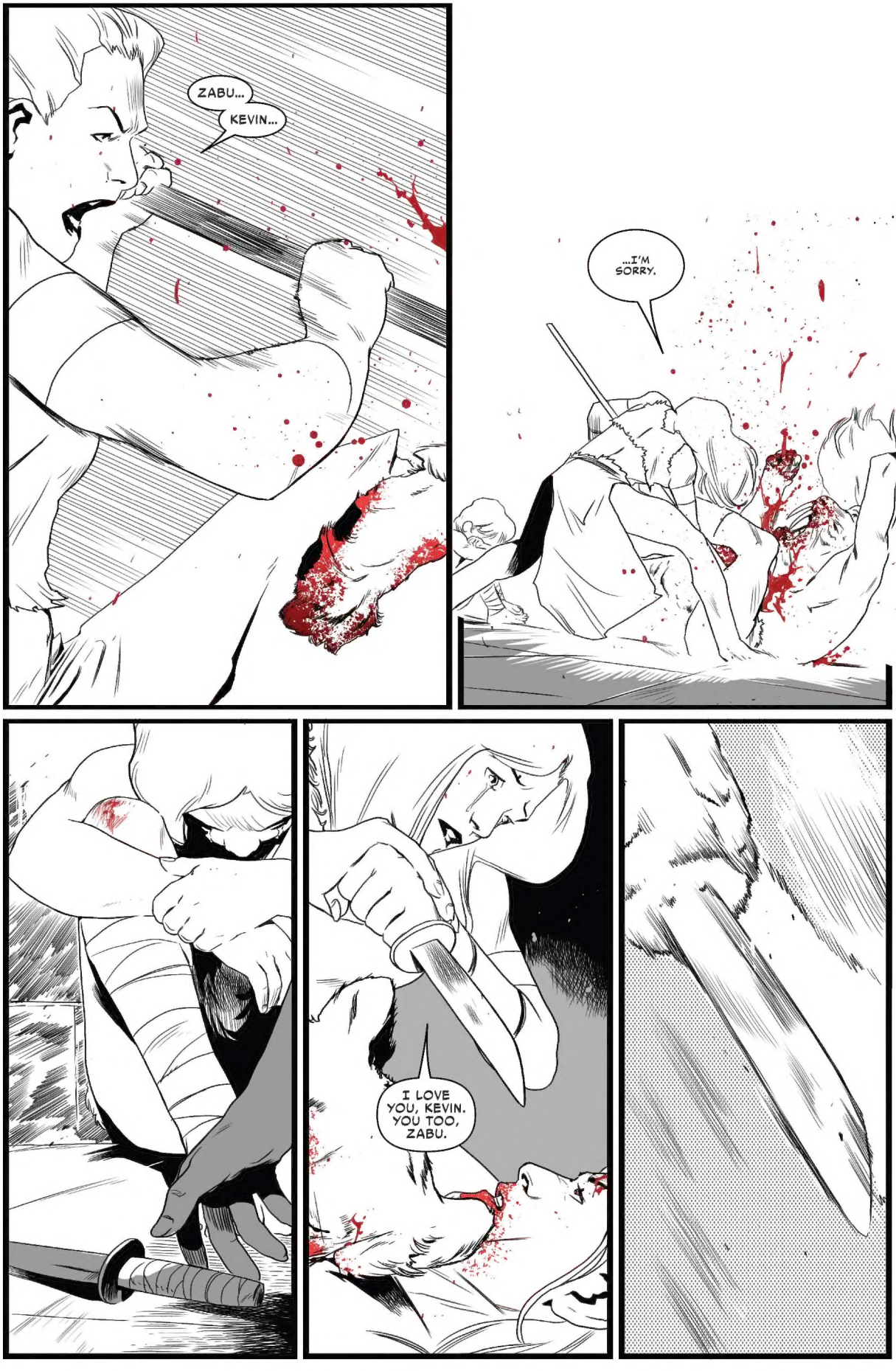

IT HAD TAKEN SO LONG TO GET KA-ZAR TO SEE THAT LIFE COULD BE SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST SURVIVING, SO MUCH MORE THAN BIRTH AND DEATH, BUT ALL THE WORTHWHILE MOMENTS IN BETWEEN.
THIS ISN'T LIFE. IT ISN'T EVEN SURVIVAL.
I KNOW THAT EVEN IN THIS LIVING DEATH, KA-ZAR AND ZABU ARE LINKED, AND TO TAKE DOWN ONE, I WILL HAVE TO TAKE DOWN BOTH.
COME ON...
DAMMIT.


SKREEE!
YOU PICKED THE WRONG DAY TO COME AFTER ME!
SCREECH!
ALTHOUGH, TO BE FAIR, THEY'RE ALL WRONG DAYS NOW.

HRRRRGN!
GRAAAA--
LORD ZYR, LOOK! THEY'VE BROKEN THROUGH!
SOUND THE ALARMS! SOLDIERS, TO BATTLE! SIG, GO HELP LADY SHANNA!
MATTHEW! I'VE GOT TO GET TO HIM!
MATTHEW, WHERE'S YOUR MOTHER?
THE AERIANS TAKE TO THE SKY TO PROTECT THE FORTRESS... AND MATTHEW.

DEATH TO THE DEAD!
THE DAY HAD COME...
HRRRRGN!
...WHEN THE HUNGER OF THE DEAD COULD NO LONGER BE KEPT AT BAY.
DAD...?
MATTHEW! I'M COMING!

GRRRR!
KA-ZAR... KEVIN, PLEASE!
DAD, DON'T!
MATTHEW, STAY BEHIND ME.
KA-ZAR GRABS AT ME BUT DOESN'T BREAK SKIN. MY HEART HURTS WORSE THAN MY SHOULDER.
ROOAR!


ZABU...
KEVIN...
...I'M SORRY.
I LOVE YOU, KEVIN. YOU TOO, ZABU.

"...REST NOW."
MOM...WILL DAD AND ZABU BE OKAY NOW? DID THE ZOMBIE STUFF INSIDE THEM GO AWAY?
OH, MY SON.
MOM, I'M SCARED...
IT'S TIME TO GO, MATTHEW. I NEED TO GET YOU SOMEPLACE SAFE.
MATTHEW...?
END.